Please replace the paragraph at page 19, lines 17 to 23 with the following:

From a patient point of view, the above system appears as if a manager (manufacturer) of a backup server issued a patient-specific clinical recording. As shown in Fig. 10, the name of a manufacturer acting as a provider may be shown on a patient-specific clinical recording, resulting in working as an effective advertisement of the system and manufacturer.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute amended claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-15, 17 and 18 as follows:

1.   (Amended)   A medical data preservation system comprising:

medical data receiving means for receiving electronic medical data including medical information over a communication line;

a data storage device in which the medical data received by said medical data receiving means is stored;

storage condition designating means for use in designating a condition for storage in said data storage device; and

control means for controlling a data-stored state of said data storage device according to the condition for storage designated by said storage condition designating means.

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2. (Amended) A medical data preservation method comprising:

receiving electronic medical data including medical information over a communication line;

storing the received medical data in a data storage device;

designating a condition for storage in said data storage device; and

controlling a data-stored state of said data storage device according to the designated condition for storage.

3. (Amended) A medical data preservation method for controlling backup of medical image data using a programmed computer, comprising:

selecting a backup mode in which medical image data is backed up;

backing up medical image data in a selected backup mode;

performing accounting according to the selected backup mode.

4. (Amended) A medical data preservation system comprising:

an image backup device for preserving a backup copy of medical image data over a network over which information can be transferred; and

control means for controlling the image backup device according to a backup mode.

6. (Amended) A medical data preservation system according to Claim 5, wherein said control means controls a plurality of objects of backup according to respective determined backup modes, and performs accounting on each object of backup.

7. (Amended) A medical data preservation system according to Claim 4, wherein said control means and performs accounting according to the backup mode.

9. (Amended) A medical data preservation system according to Claim 8, wherein said control means can control a plurality of objects of backup according to respective determined backup modes, and performs accounting on each object of backup.

10. (Amended) A medical data preservation method comprising:

selecting a backup mode from among a plurality of backup modes, and designating the selected backup mode as a backing up method; and

backing up medical image data, which is stored in a storage device, in an image backup device over a network according to the designated backing up method.

12. (Amended) A medical data preservation method according to Claim 10, wherein all of the medical image data stored in said

storage device is backed up at a time in said image backup device at any set time.

13. (Amended) A medical data preservation method according to Claim 10, wherein all of the medical image data stored in said storage device, acquired at respective medical institutions, is backed up at a time in said image backup device.

14. (Amended) A medical data preservation method according to Claim 10, wherein all of the medical image data stored in said storage device is backed up for each patient at a time in said image backup device.

15. (Amended) A medical data preservation method according to Claim 10, wherein all the of medical image data stored in said storage device is backed up for each examination at a time in said image backup device.

17. (Amended) A medical data preservation method comprising:

selecting a backup mode from among a plurality of backup modes and designating the selected backup mode as a backing up method;

backing up medical image data, stored in a storage device, in an image backup device over a network according to the designated backing up method; and

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performing accounting so as to calculate a charge for backup

according to the selected backup mode.

18.   (Amended)   A medical data preservation method according

to Claim 17, wherein a charge for backup is calculated as a

product of an accounting point, depending on the selected backup

mode, a period during which backup is continued, and a backup

rate.